Jim Henson's™

THE STORYTELLER™

Tale Three of Four

Tricksters

ARCHAIA

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ISA HANSSEN

A Tale of Two Markets

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Tricksters

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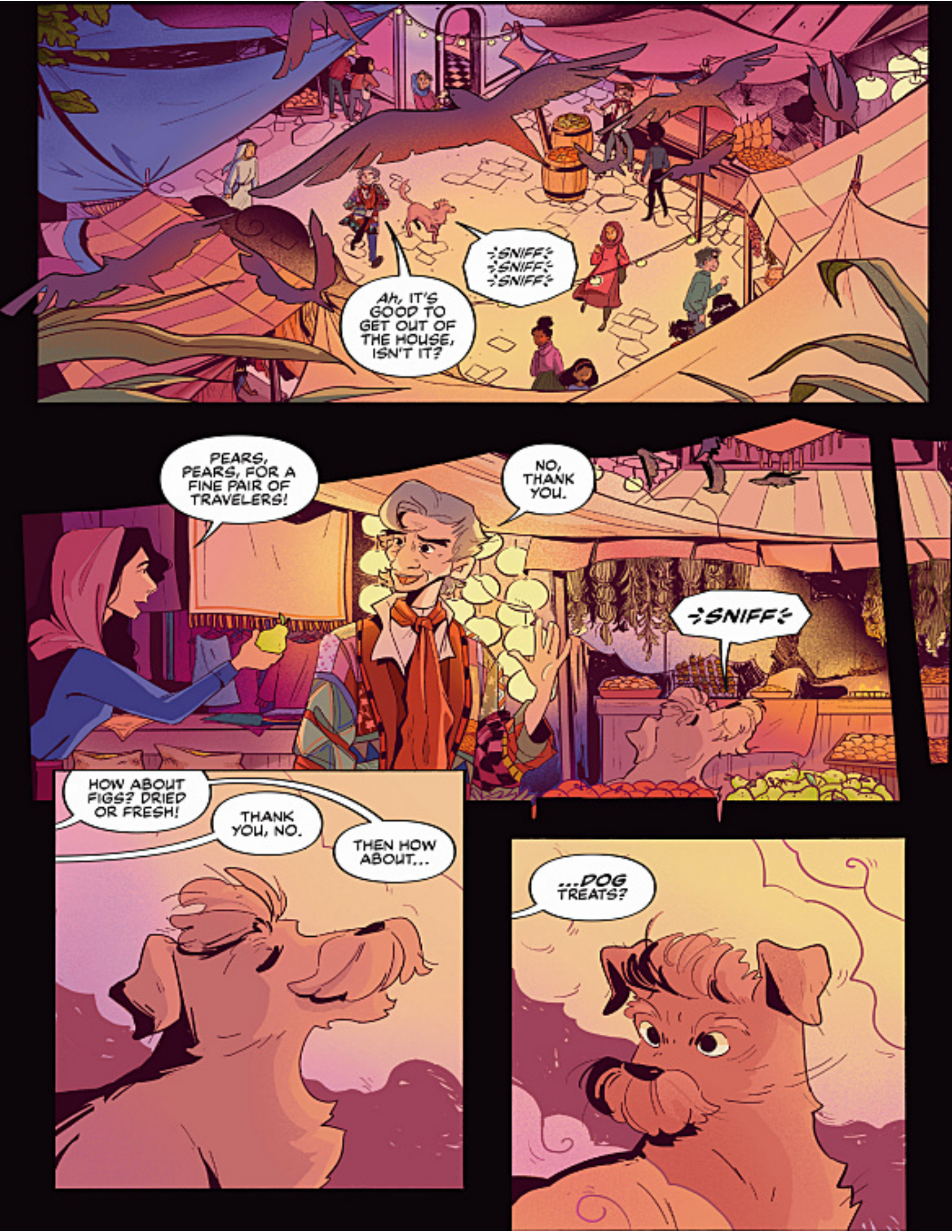
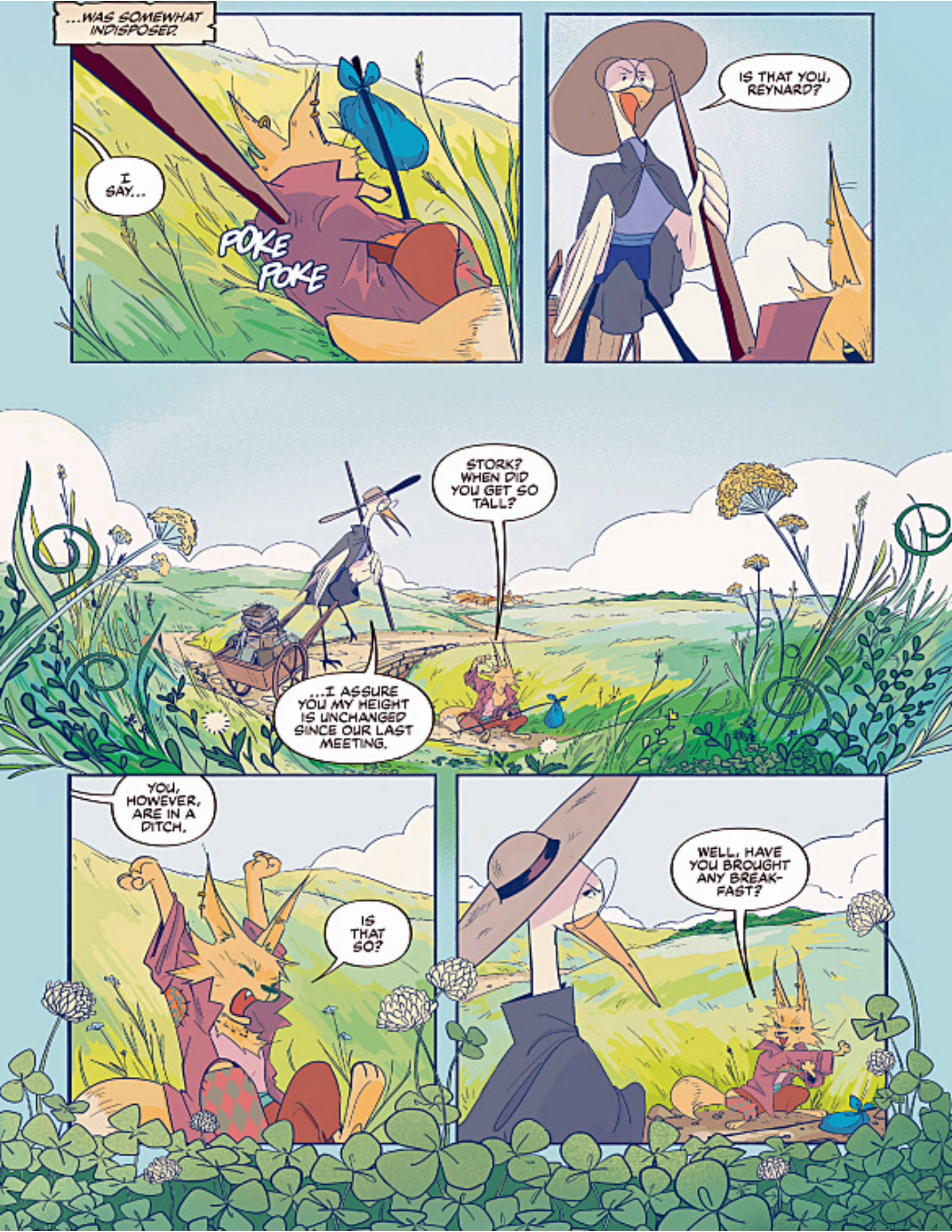
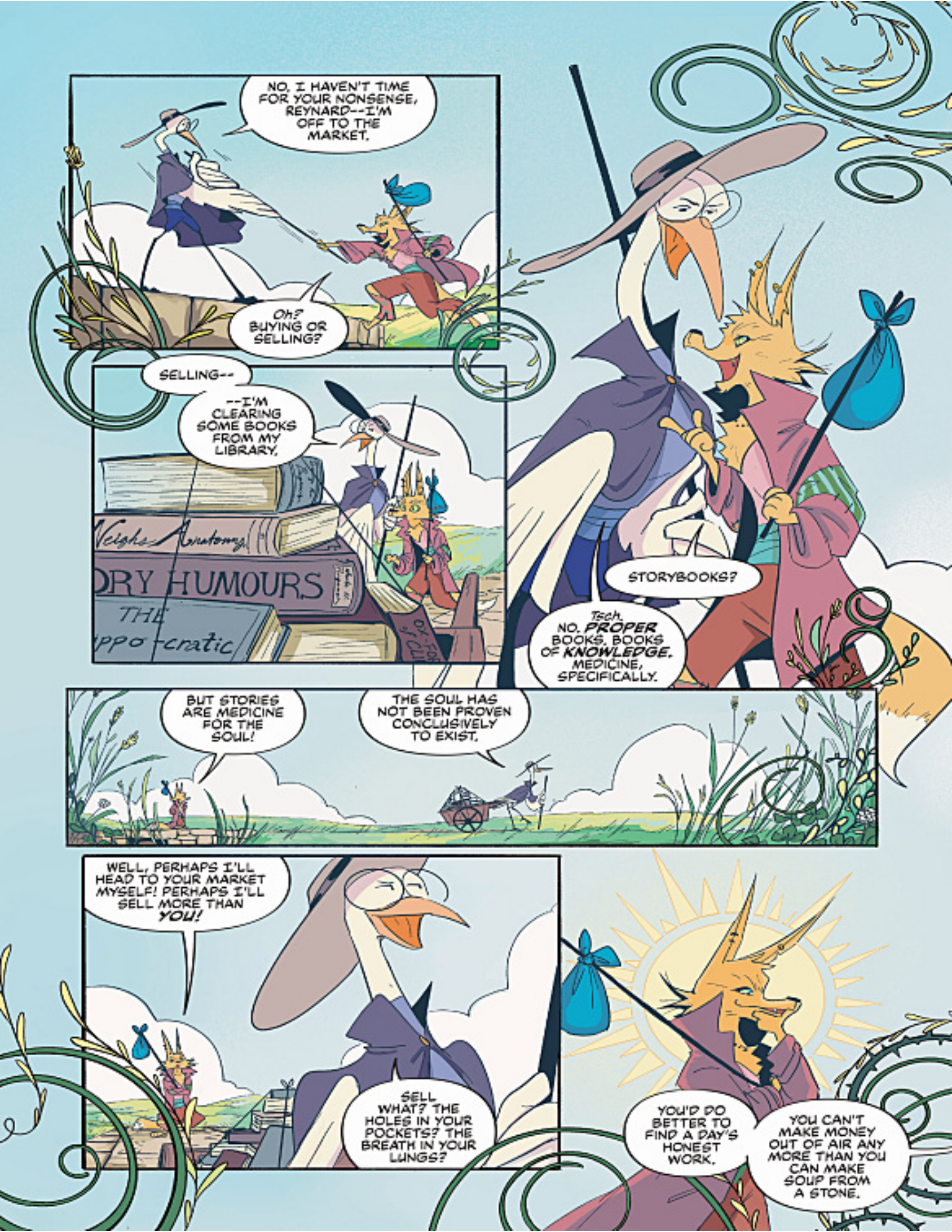
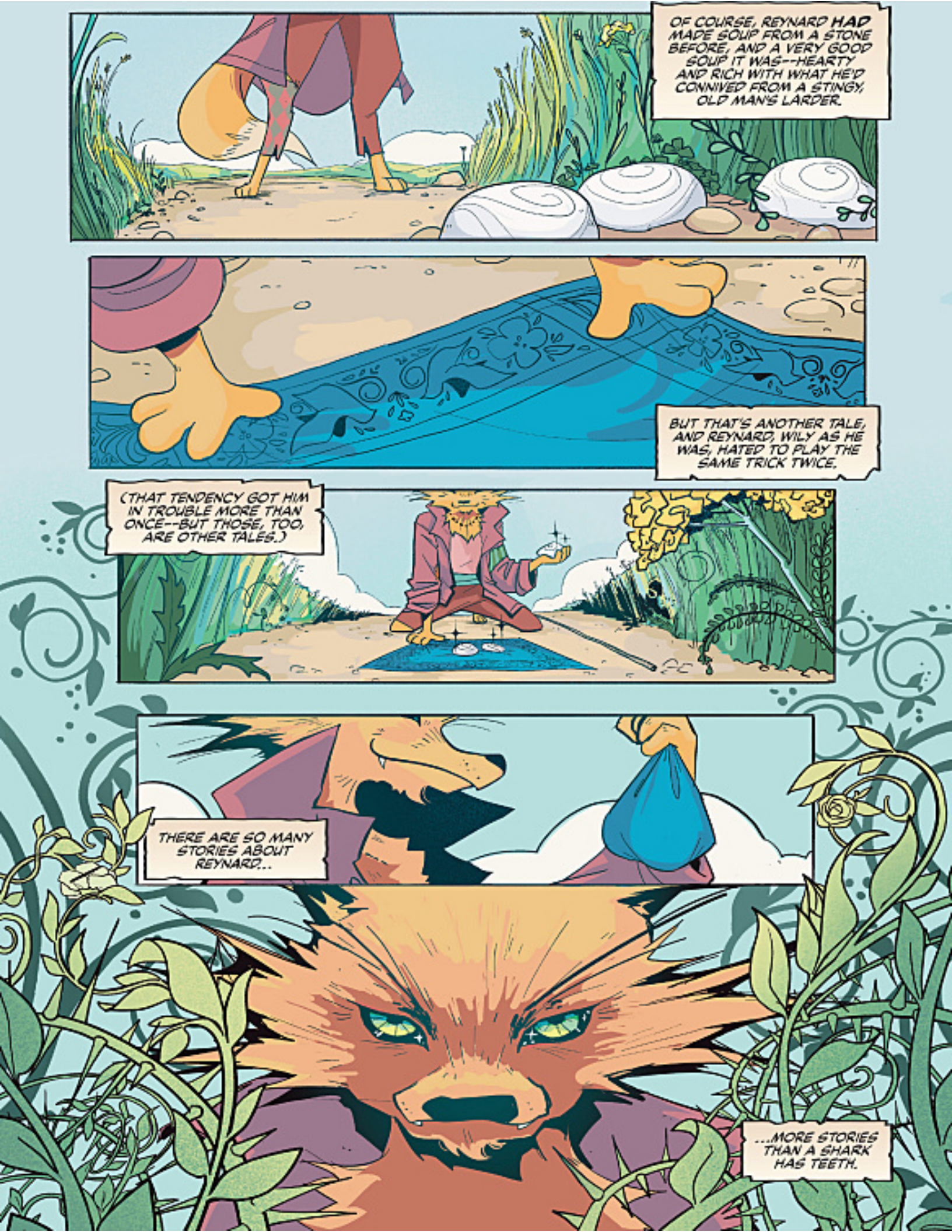

AH, IT'S GOOD TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
:SNIFF: :SNIFF: :SNIFF:
PEARS, PEARS, FOR A FINE PAIR OF TRAVELERS!
NO, THANK YOU.
:SNIFF:
HOW ABOUT FIGS? DRIED OR FRESH!
THANK YOU, NO.
THEN HOW ABOUT...
...DOG TREATS?

WHY, I HAVE TREATS TO MAKE A DOG'S COAT GLEAM LIKE GOLD AND SILK!
MY TREATS WILL GROW A DOG'S TEETH INTO DRAGON'S FANGS, HIS CLAWS TO MIGHTY TALONS!
MY TREATS WILL GIVE A DOG'S LIMBS THE STRENGTH OF SEVEN LIONS!
DON'T BE TAKEN IN, MY FRIEND. I KNOW A TELLER OF TALL TALES WHEN I SEE ONE.
I'd be happy with a treat to fill a dog's belly...
YOUR BELLY DESERVES BETTER! HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU A PROPER STORY INSTEAD?
I'M REMINDED OF ANOTHER MARKET, AND ANOTHER TELLER OF TALES...
HIS NAME WAS REYNARD, AND HE WAS A WILY FOX OF A FELLOW-- BUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS TALE, REYNARD...

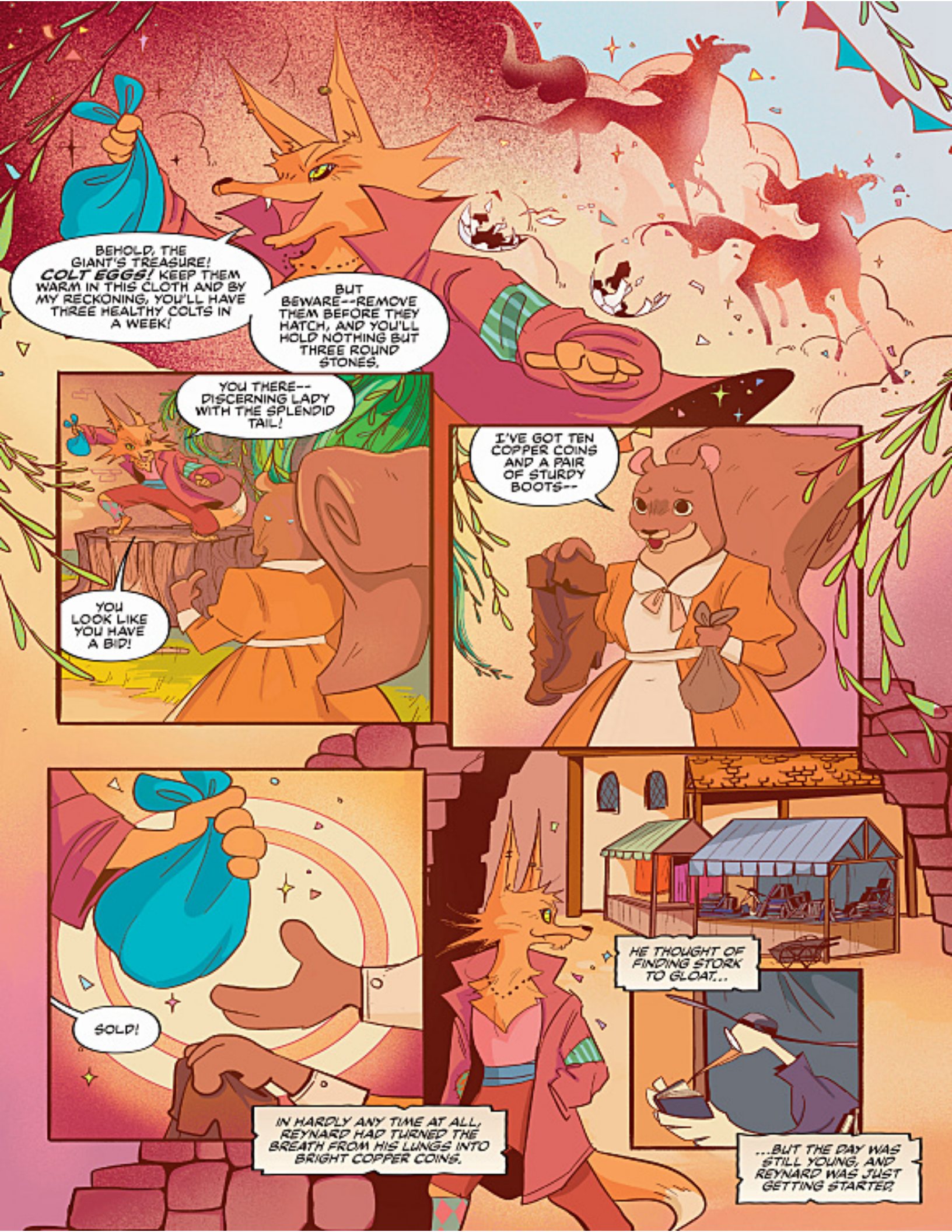

...WAS SOMEWHAT INDISPOSED.
I SAY...
POKE
POKE
IS THAT YOU, REYNARD?
STORK? WHEN DID YOU GET SO TALL?
...I ASSURE YOU MY HEIGHT IS UNCHANGED SINCE OUR LAST MEETING.
YOU, HOWEVER, ARE IN A DITCH.
IS THAT SO?
WELL, HAVE YOU BROUGHT ANY BREAK-FAST?

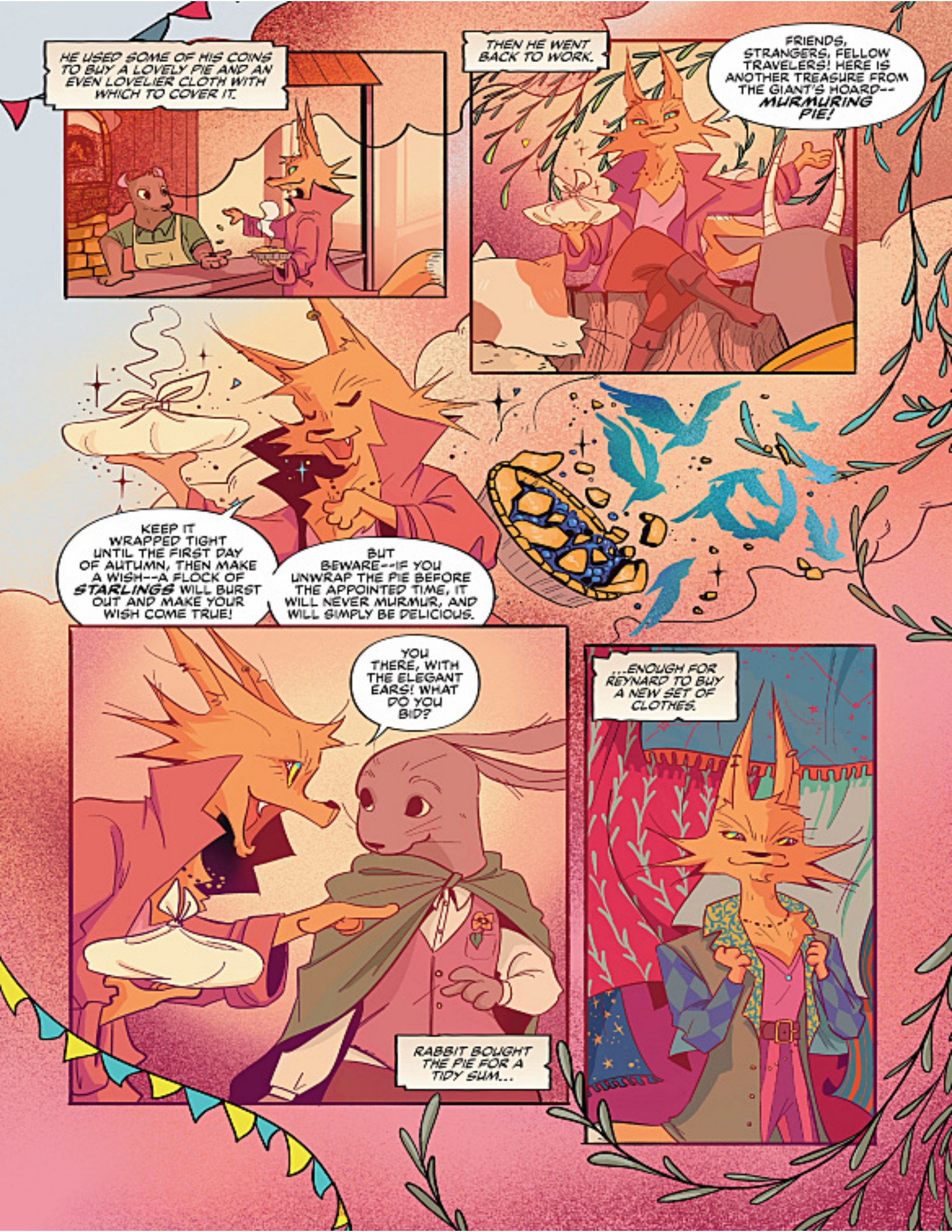

NO, I HAVEN'T TIME FOR YOUR NONSENSE, REYNARD--I'M OFF TO THE MARKET.
Oh? BUYING OR SELLING?
SELLING--
--I'M CLEARING SOME BOOKS FROM MY LIBRARY.
STORYBOOKS?
Tsch. NO. PROPER BOOKS, BOOKS OF KNOWLEDGE. MEDICINE, SPECIFICALLY.
BUT STORIES ARE MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL!
THE SOUL HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN CONCLUSIVELY TO EXIST.
WELL, PERHAPS I'LL HEAD TO YOUR MARKET MYSELF! PERHAPS I'LL SELL MORE THAN YOU!
SELL WHAT? THE HOLES IN YOUR POCKETS? THE BREATH IN YOUR LUNGS?
YOU'D DO BETTER TO FIND A DAY'S HONEST WORK.
YOU CAN'T MAKE MONEY OUT OF AIR ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN MAKE SOUP FROM A STONE.


OF COURSE, REYNARD HAD MADE SOUP FROM A STONE BEFORE, AND A VERY GOOD SOUP IT WAS--HEARTY AND RICH WITH WHAT HE'D CONNIVED FROM A STINGY, OLD MAN'S LARDER.
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER TALE, AND REYNARD, WILY AS HE WAS, HATED TO PLAY THE SAME TRICK TWICE.
(THAT TENDENCY GOT HIM IN TROUBLE MORE THAN ONCE--BUT THOSE, TOO, ARE OTHER TALES.)
THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES ABOUT REYNARD...
...MORE STORIES THAN A SHARK HAS TEETH.

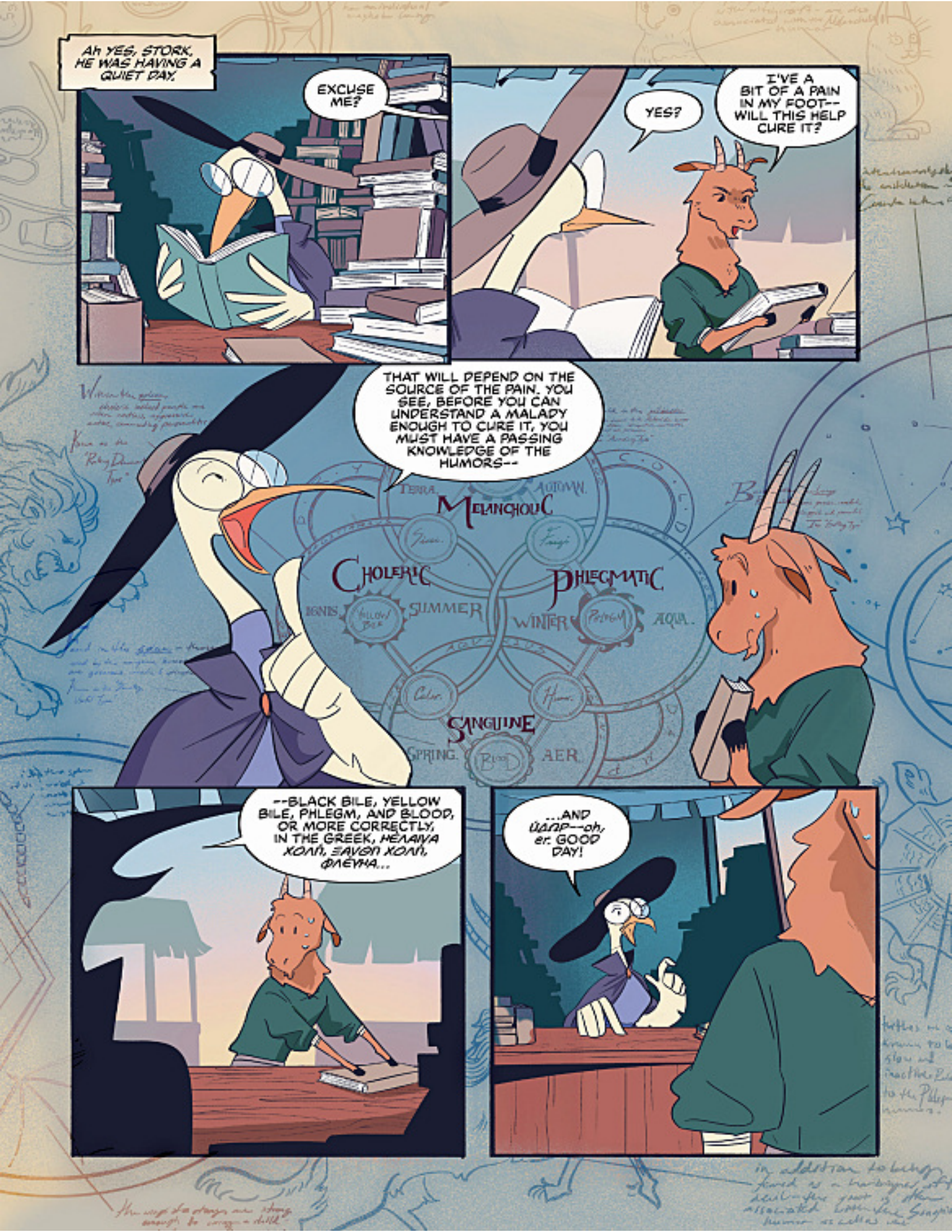
TODAY, HE'D SELL HIS BREATH...
...MAKE MONEY FROM A STONE...
...AND PROVE STORK WRONG BESIDES.

AHEM!
FRIENDS, STRANGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS!
I'VE JOURNEYED FAR AND WIDE, AND SUFFERED GRAVE MISFORTUNE, ALL TO BRING YOU TREASURES FROM A DISTANT LAND!
BUT WHY SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO ME? I'M A MESS, OF COURSE, THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR THAT, AND THAT REASON IS...
...I ROBBED A GIANT!

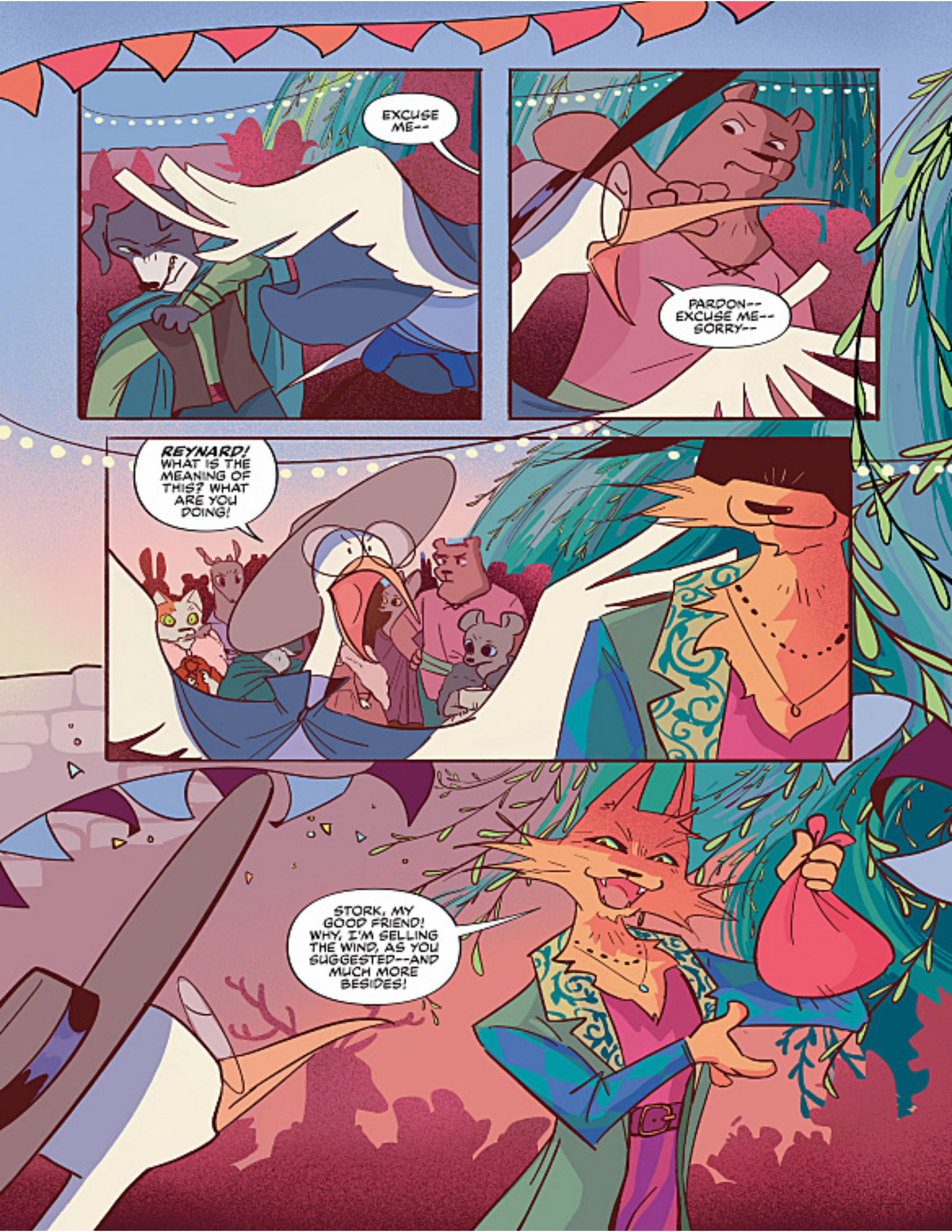

BEHOLD, THE GIANT'S TREASURE! COLT EGGS! KEEP THEM WARM IN THIS CLOTH AND BY MY RECKONING, YOU'LL HAVE THREE HEALTHY COLTS IN A WEEK!
BUT BEWARE--REMOVE THEM BEFORE THEY HATCH, AND YOU'LL HOLD NOTHING BUT THREE ROUND STONES.
YOU THERE-- DISCERNING LADY WITH THE SPLENDID TAIL!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A BID!
I'VE GOT TEN COPPER COINS AND A PAIR OF STURDY BOOTS--
SOLD!
IN HARDLY ANY TIME AT ALL, REYNARD HAD TURNED THE BREATH FROM HIS LUNGS INTO BRIGHT COPPER COINS.
HE THOUGHT OF FINDING STORK TO GLOAT...
...BUT THE DAY WAS STILL YOUNG, AND REYNARD WAS JUST GETTING STARTED.

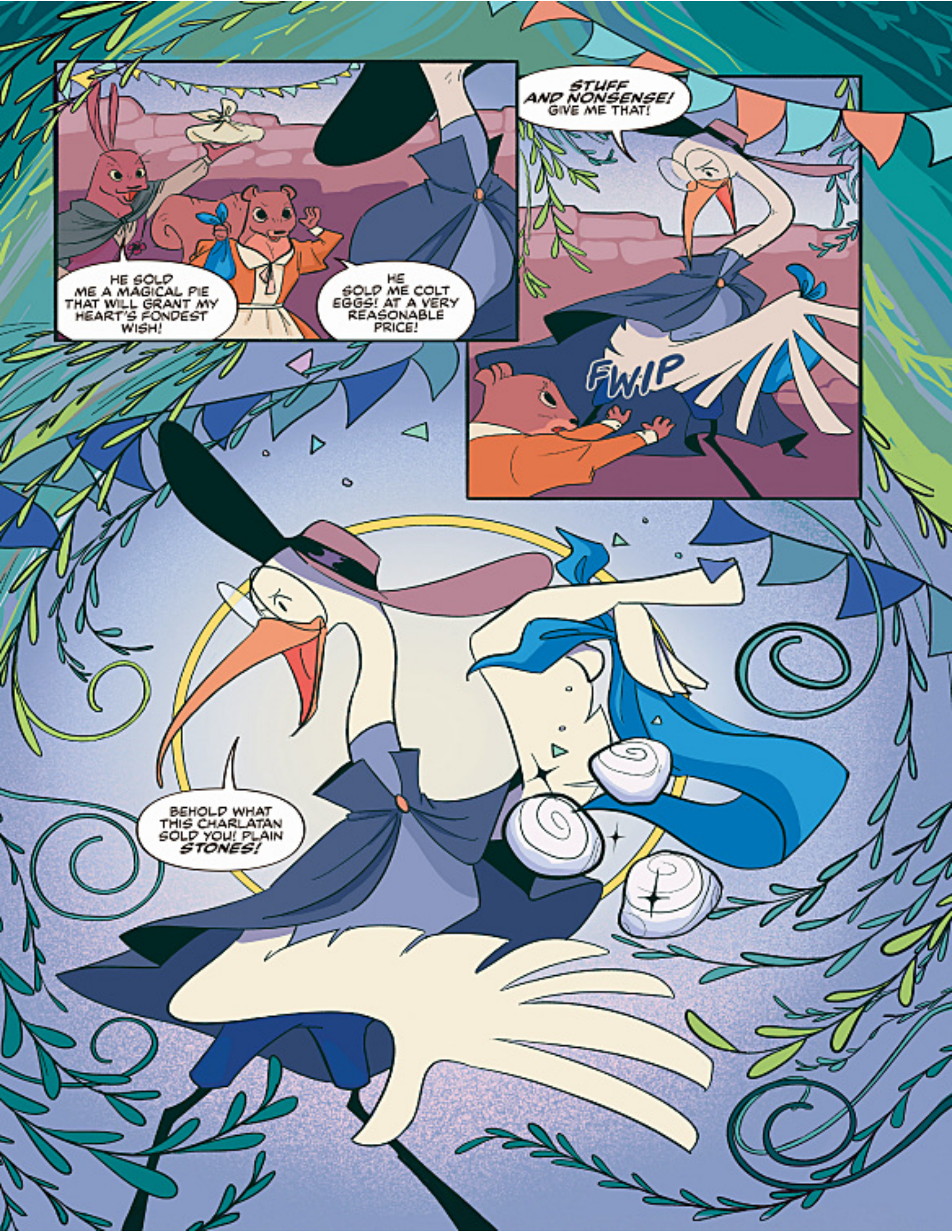

HE USED SOME OF HIS COINS TO BUY A LOVELY PIE AND AN EVEN LOVELIER CLOTH WITH WHICH TO COVER IT.
THEN HE WENT BACK TO WORK.
FRIENDS, STRANGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS! HERE IS ANOTHER TREASURE FROM THE GIANT'S HOARD-- MURMURING PIE!
KEEP IT WRAPPED TIGHT UNTIL THE FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN, THEN MAKE A WISH--A FLOCK OF STARLINGS WILL BURST OUT AND MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE!
BUT BEWARE--IF YOU UNWRAP THE PIE BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME, IT WILL NEVER MURMUR, AND WILL SIMPLY BE DELICIOUS.
YOU THERE, WITH THE ELEGANT EARS! WHAT DO YOU BID?
RABBIT BOUGHT THE PIE FOR A TIDY SUM...
...ENOUGH FOR REYNARD TO BUY A NEW SET OF CLOTHES.

IMAGINE WANTING CLOTHES MORE THAN A PIE! PIES ARE BETTER THAN CLOTHES.
Mm. WELL, IT'S GOOD TO VALUE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE.
clink
THINGS LIKE STORIES, FOR EXAMPLE, AND ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF TELLING THEM.
Hmph. SO WHAT WAS STORK UP TO ALL THIS TIME?


AH YES, STORK. HE WAS HAVING A QUIET DAY.
EXCUSE ME?
YES?
I'VE A BIT OF A PAIN IN MY FOOT-- WILL THIS HELP CURE IT?
THAT WILL DEPEND ON THE SOURCE OF THE PAIN. YOU SEE, BEFORE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND A MALADY ENOUGH TO CURE IT, YOU MUST HAVE A PASSING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMORS--
MELANCHOLIC
CHOLERIC
PHLEGMATIC
SANGUINE
--BLACK BILE, YELLOW BILE, PHLEGM, AND BLOOD, OR MORE CORRECTLY, IN THE GREEK, ΜΕΛΑΙΝΑ ΧΟΛΗ, ΞΑΝΘΗ ΧΟΛΗ, ΦΛΕΓΜΑ...
...AND ὕδωρ--oh, er. GOOD DAY!

RATHER QUIET IN THE MARKET TODAY.
ALTHOUGH... WHAT COULD BE GOING ON OVER THERE?
FRIENDS, STRANGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS!
THIS IS THE LAST OF THE GIANT'S TREASURES. WITHIN THIS SACK ARE CAPTURED THE FOUR WINDS!


EXCUSE ME--
PARDON-- EXCUSE ME-- SORRY--
REYNARD! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
STORK, MY GOOD FRIEND! WHY, I'M SELLING THE WIND, AS YOU SUGGESTED--AND MUCH MORE BESIDES!

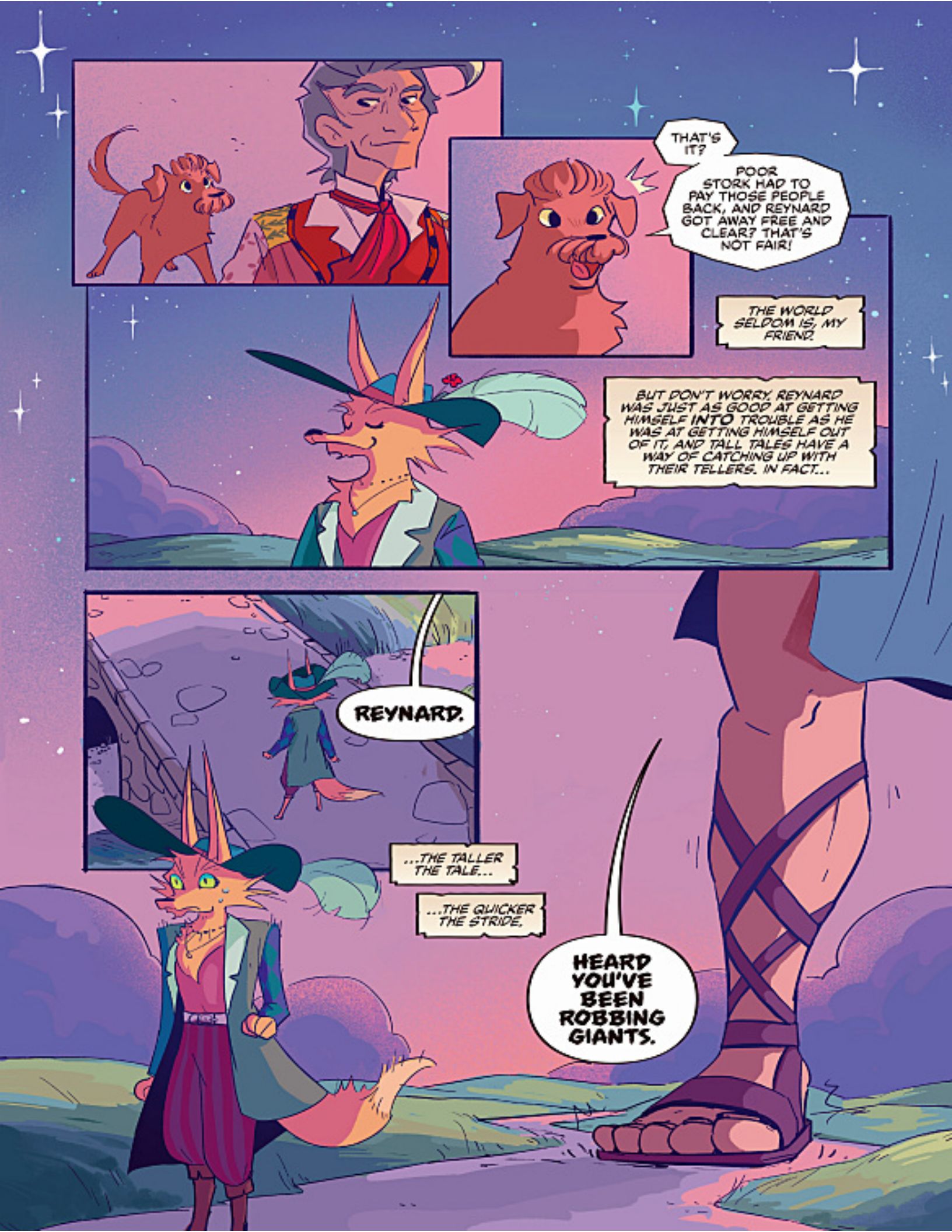

HE SOLD ME A MAGICAL PIE THAT WILL GRANT MY HEART'S FONDEST WISH!
HE SOLD ME COLT EGGS! AT A VERY REASONABLE PRICE!
STUFF AND NONSENSE! GIVE ME THAT!
FWIP
BEHOLD WHAT THIS CHARLATAN SOLD YOU! PLAIN STONES!

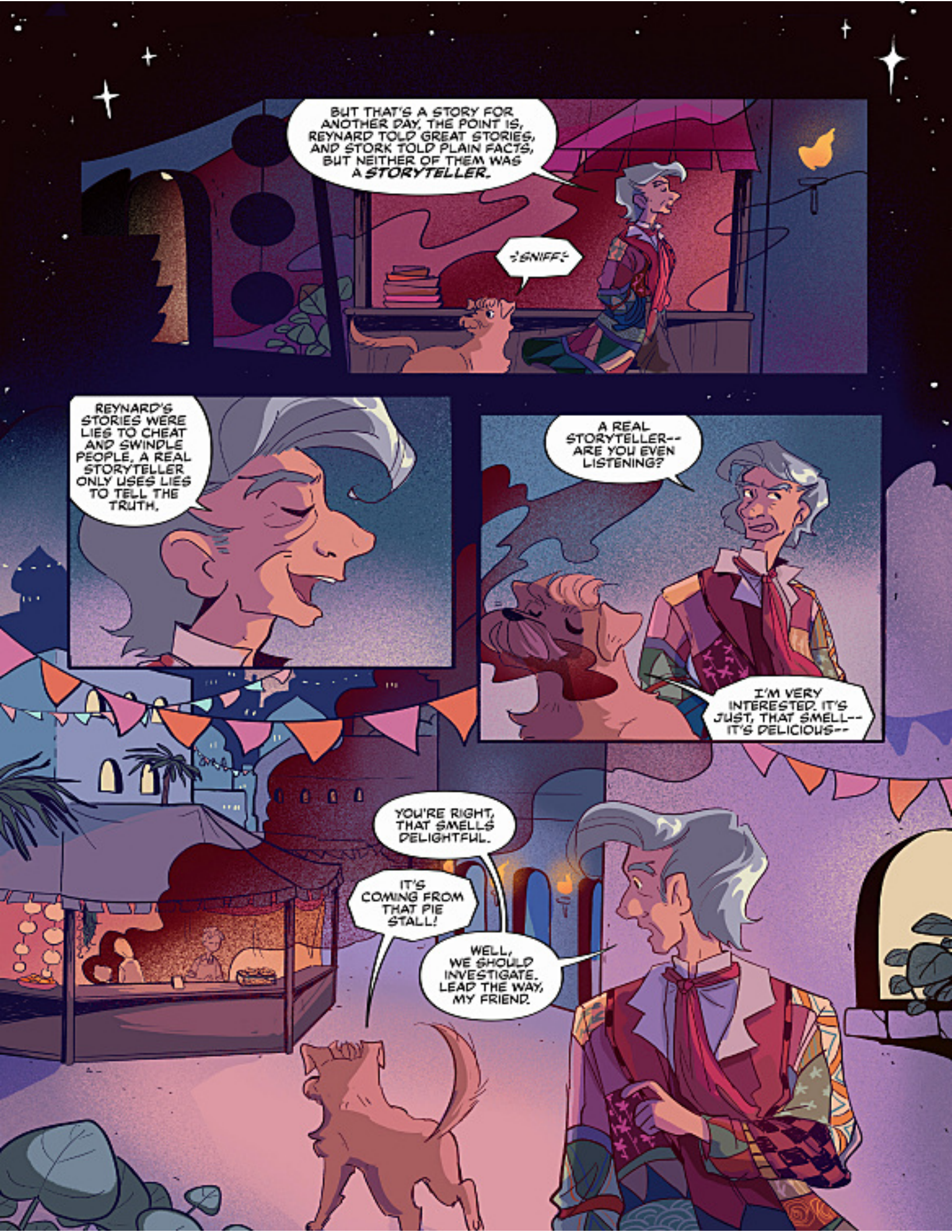
HOW DARE YOU! SCOUNDREL! YOU'VE GONE AND RUINED MY INVESTMENT! REYNARD SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
BUT-- BUT I--
GIVE ME THAT PIE!
HEY!
SEE? JUST A REGULAR PIE! DELICIOUS, PERHAPS--BUT NOT MAGICAL!

THIEF! HOW DARE YOU! REYNARD SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
I DEMAND COMPENSATION!
BUT--HE LIED TO YOU! THESE ARE JUST ORDINARY OBJECTS!
MAGIC ISN'T REAL!
WHAT ELSE CAN I--Ah, OF COURSE.
GIVE ME THAT! I'LL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT YOU'RE A LIAR AND A CHEAT!

CAREFUL, MY FRIEND--
--OPENING THAT SACK WILL UNLEASH ALL FOUR WINDS AT ONCE, AND SUMMON A STORM TO DROWN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!
gulp
THE SKY! IT'S DARKENING!
I THINK I HEAR THUNDER!
I THINK I SMELL RAIN!
ROT AND RUBBISH! LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING--

HE'S OPENING THE BAG!
STOP HIM!
GRAB HIM, QUICK!
BAH! UNHAND ME, YOU FOOLS!
SIX SILVER CROWNS OR I'LL HAVE THEM OUT OF YOUR HIDE!
TEN COPPER PIECES AND A STURDY PAIR OF BOOTS, AND NOT A PENNY LESS, YOU HEAR? I HAD GREAT PLANS FOR THOSE COLTS!
OTTER! YOU SAIL THE SEAS--WHAT SAY YOU TO A SACK OF STRONG WIND?
I SAY THAT SOUNDS MIGHTY FINE.
HAVING SOLD THE LAST OF HIS WARES, REYNARD BOUGHT HIMSELF A DASHING HAT...
...AND WALKED OFF, WELL PLEASED, INTO THE WARM SUMMER EVENING.

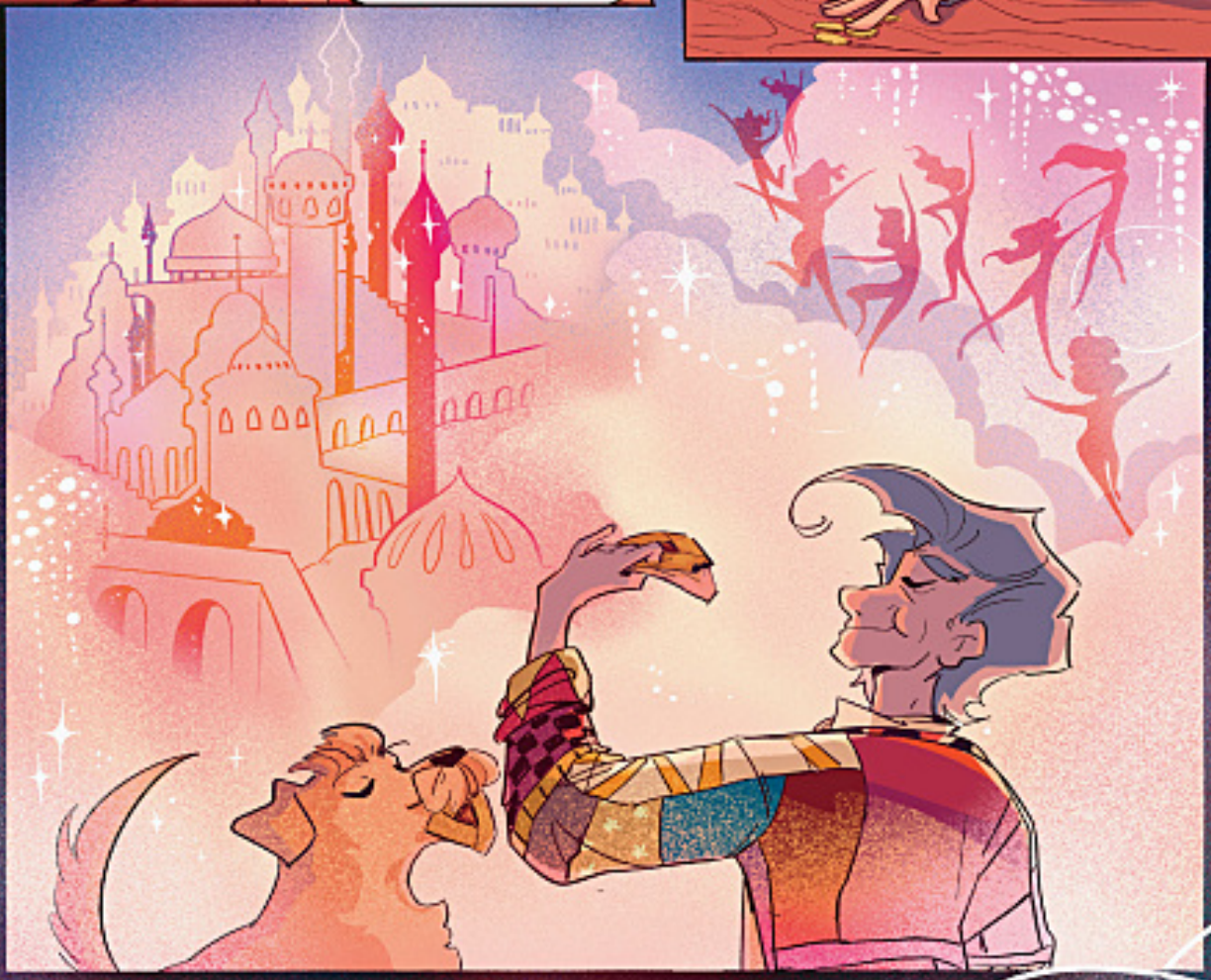

THAT'S IT?
POOR STORK HAD TO PAY THOSE PEOPLE BACK, AND REYNARD GOT AWAY FREE AND CLEAR? THAT'S NOT FAIR!
THE WORLD SELDOM IS, MY FRIEND.
BUT DON'T WORRY. REYNARD WAS JUST AS GOOD AT GETTING HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE AS HE WAS AT GETTING HIMSELF OUT OF IT, AND TALL TALES HAVE A WAY OF CATCHING UP WITH THEIR TELLERS. IN FACT...
REYNARD.
...THE TALLER THE TALE...
...THE QUICKER THE STRIDE,
HEARD YOU'VE BEEN ROBBING GIANTS.


BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY. THE POINT IS, REYNARD TOLD GREAT STORIES, AND STORK TOLD PLAIN FACTS, BUT NEITHER OF THEM WAS A STORYTELLER.
SNIFF
REYNARD'S STORIES WERE LIES TO CHEAT AND SWINDLE PEOPLE. A REAL STORYTELLER ONLY USES LIES TO TELL THE TRUTH.
A REAL STORYTELLER-- ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
I'M VERY INTERESTED. IT'S JUST, THAT SMELL-- IT'S DELICIOUS--
YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT SMELLS DELIGHTFUL.
IT'S COMING FROM THAT PIE STALL!
WELL, WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE. LEAD THE WAY, MY FRIEND.

PIES FOR SALE, PIES FOR SALE! MEAT FOR A TREAT, CHEESE IF YOU PLEASE!
NO PIES LIKE MY SISTER'S PIES ON THIS SIDE OF PARADISE!

FATAYER! WHEN I EAT THEM, IT'S LIKE THERE'S A PALACE ON MY TONGUE FULL OF FINE DANCING!
DON'T THEY SMELL SO GOOD THAT YOU COULD JUST FLOAT AWAY ON A CLOUD OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS?

THEY DO INDEED. TWO, PLEASE, FOR MY FRIEND AND ME.



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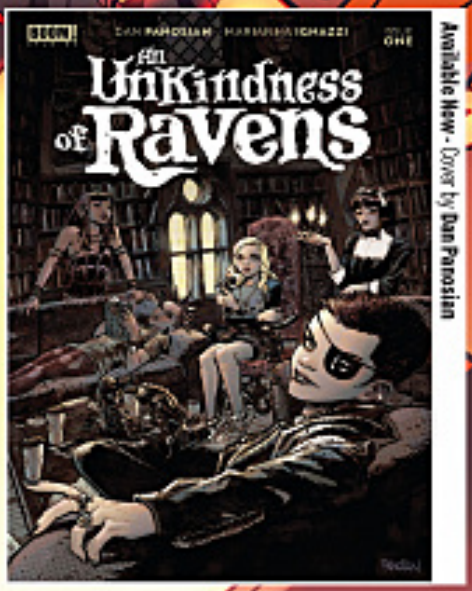

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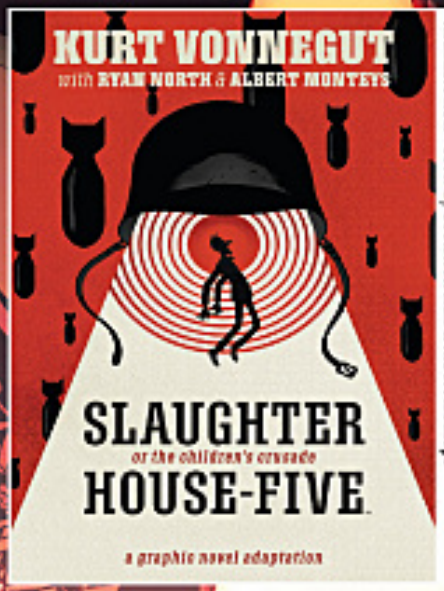

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